

inner and an outer race, and a stator assembly, the system comprising:

one or more flexible dampers, each having a first stiffness; and

a plurality of rigid bumpers, each of said plurality of rigid bumpers having a second stiffness, wherein said second stiffness is greater than said first stiffness.

39. (Twice Amended) An evacuated energy storage device, said device comprising:

a bearing assembly; said bearing assembly further comprising:

an inner race,

an outer race,

a rolling element, wherein said rolling element is substantially confined between said inner and said outer race;

a rotor assembly that is rotatably supported and guided by said bearing assembly;

a stator assembly; and

a dual stiffness damping system, the system comprising:

one or more flexible dampers, each having a first stiffness; and a

plurality of rigid bumpers, each of said plurality of rigid bumpers having a second stiffness, wherein said stiffness is greater than first stiffness.

REMARKS

Claims 1-35 and 39-64 are all of the claims pending in the present application. Claims 1 and 39 have been amended herein.

Applicant submits that the amendments to claims 1 and 39 were made to clarify the already definite claims, and not for reasons related to patentability. Further, Applicant submits that these claim amendments are not narrowing.

I. FORMAL MATTERS